Office – Tuesday Eve'g.
Sept. 20/64.

Dear Phillips,

It was not this (returned enclosed) acct. of Foss's which I desired, but that of his recent tour in Maine. I am sorry to give you any more trouble about it. – Should you be coming to town soon, will you bring ~~the~~ his Maine list of Collections, or send it me here before Friday noon? – and I will speedily return it.

Thank you for your words of explanation. I yet rejoice in the old couplet –

"For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight,
"He can't be wrong, whose life is in the right"

Your anti-slavery life ~~is~~ has been too whole, uniform, & complete, to leave any question of your essential soundness whether as to ~~matter of~~ faith, & principle, or action. Yet no man is infallible, no man always right; — ~~[illegible]~~ and ~~[illegible]~~ as it is certainly possible you may be wrong, ~~you actually are, now~~ I am convinced ~~that~~ your turn to be wrong has come now.

Even you admit a great difference between Lincoln and McClellan, — a ~~[illegible]~~ choice between them ~~on political grounds,~~ — when you say you would cut off both hands before "doing anything unnecessarily" to elect McC. — and one, before doing the same for L. I consider that I have done no otherwise than this, in kind; only that, in degree, I ~~consider~~ think the difference between the two men very much greater than you do. ~~I cannot fail to~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~see that there is a difference, I (as I judge) [illegible]~~ ~~a vast difference between them.~~ I express this opinion, & ~~this~~ the preference founded upon it, ~~p~~ and, as I

(its Negro Hate, its Treason too,)

Consider, & have for months considered,
actual, inevitable,
that the choice is between Mr. Lincoln
(X.Y.Z.) And now, between the Anti-slavery of the ~~Nation~~ Country, as represented however imperfectly by the ~~[illegible]~~ and its Proslavery as represented by Gen. McClellan,
& the Chicago Nominee, ~~I could not~~ I can
whom I have felt morally sure would never be Gen. Fremont
I have ~~deemed it a duty, alike to my country~~
~~in the interest of the country and of the [illegible]~~
~~hesitate to make politically my~~
and to the AntiSlavery cause to judge
and determine between these two.
~~own choice,~~ And this especially, as I saw
have less hesitation than ever before.
(or believed I saw) that any help
rendered to a 3d candidate was to
subtract just so much strength from
the great body of the AntiSlavery
force of the Nation. [See, X.Y.Z.] Having, therefore ~~only~~ ~~[illegible]~~
~~(in regard to declaring a difference and choice among the 2 contestants)~~
but ~~what you have & no more in kind,~~
formed, as you have formed, a judgment
in regard to ~~[illegible]~~ ~~a preference or distinction~~ a real difference
between the two contestants, and expressed the same, – I see no ground for
the charge you make, that I have deserted, or am
afraid to stand upon, the old antisl:
platform. ~~I am not afraid to stand~~
~~there – I purpose to stand there – and~~
~~(if I could do it) I do stand there.~~

You say you still ~~adhere~~ prefer
to be a reformer to a politician!
That quite puzzles me.
~~I know not how to be the latter.~~ I have
Am I the politician? That seems too much of ~~like~~ a joke.

attended no polit. Conventions, as a member of it — (not even as a Spectator) — ha written no letter, suggesting political nominations — ~~have sought the elevat of no particular man (except as aforesaid, in expressing my conviction of the preference between men)~~ — have neither spoken in public, nor labored in private, ~~for the setting~~ to set up ~~of~~ a different candidate from ~~that which~~ him whom the great body of loyal men had on Antislavery grounds indicated; — and so (pardon me) don't see why you should intimate that I ha ceased to stand on the old A.S. platfo while you have strictly kept there! I by no mean say ~~intimate~~, or think, that you have left it; but if either has, ~~[illegible]~~ I must in honesty say to you what Nathan said to David.

But I know from what different points we ~~often~~ sometimes look at same thing; & being so ~~sure~~ confident that you cannot fail to be right in the grand conclusion, I am, ~~as always, with cordial~~ with sincere regard ~~respect & gratitude~~ Yrs S. May

~~P.S. Believe me, dear G., while I do not presume to entreat you to any particular action, I am jealous for your own name, your fame, your services and ability, capital esteem & influence,~~ } for they are all at

~~ection occur in that. But the utter shipwreck of no one man's fame, and claims to leadership, can bankrupt the A.S. cause~~